

Wycombe Wanderers 1, Slough Town 1

NOTHING short of rope, tie and branding Tony Horseman for their F.A. Cup replay will save Slough if the Wycombe dynamo generates the same attacking power that all but decided Saturday's only all-amateur first-round tie there and then at Loakes Park.

He had the Rebels' defence looking every way but backwards and climaxed his highly-tuned display of goal-poaching with a second half equaliser to line Wanderers up for a second crack at their Buckinghamshire rivals.

But there's a goalpost at the Hospital end still quivering from Tony's spectacular overhead shot to testify the Blues should already be sure of their place in round two for the first time ever. Two disallowed "goals"—by Delaney and Searle—back up the argument.

Slough backpedalled their route to Dolphin Stadium in true Tommy Lawrence style. Indeed, the former Enfield manager can be more than satisfied about an afternoon which, tactically, went according to expectations.

It was Wanderers' forthright attack versus Slough's aggressive defence all the way. And, in between a succession of petty fouls, Town came off worst in everything but the scoreline.

Theirs was an objective victory in as much as they have prized home advantage from

By Mike Whitesman

their opposition. But Wanderers, unquestionably the superior force, should gain more than just another moral victory in the replay.

Although without suspended leading striker, John Connell, and injury troubled Dave Swain, to head their attack, Slough were not only never behind but even led for almost thirty playing minutes. Yet, Wanderers made the running from kick off to final whistle.

Slough's goal in fact came as one of the very few times in 90 minutes that goalkeeper John Maskell was threatened on his return to full active duty for Wycombe. What eluded the Blues miserly backrow — and that wasn't much or often — met Maskell in confident mood however.

His counterpart, Ian Wolstenholme, more familiar to Wycombe supporters as Enfield goalkeeper in recent years, was far busier and just as impressive.

Nonetheless, had Keith Searle been at his sharpest, Wycombe could have shredded Slough's defence simply by playing on the blatant weakness of centre half Ian McPhee.

Stirling work by Keith Mead covered up the gap but still McPhee — remember him as a Maidenhead player last season when involved in the incident that saw Searle sent off during that explosive Berks and Bucks Senior Cup tie at York Road — allowed Keith comparative acres of open space as they renewed their rivalry.

And Wednesday night might afford Searle ample scope for working off some old memories, particularly if Keith Blunt moves up in support of his frontrunners as he did on Saturday.

Blunt's contribution constituted an invaluable stream of accurate high crosses into the Slough area — all that and fine defensive covering too.

Slough's one-time golden boy, Delaney found Terry Reardon a testing foe, yet generally dominated the jumps and at least matched him 50-50 on the ground. Against O'Sullivan, however, big John faltered.

Another ex-Slough star, Les Hartridge did much to strengthen Wycombe in midfield.

Wanderers thrived on Blunt's activities. A Horseman-Hutchinson movement ended by a dangerous cross from the right back forced Mead into dive heading the ball over his own bar for a 30th minute corner.

From the kick, Delaney outjumped them all to head into goal only for referee Hart to cancel the score and award Slough a free kick for pushing.

Wolstenholme dived well to cover Searle's flick-header two minutes later, and inside another three minutes Horseman bicycled kicked from 20 yards out, but unluckily hit a post.

Necessarily pre-occupied with defence, Slough held their breath and broke clear in the 38th minute. Micky Bell put possession through to Reardon and the move progressed from Hill to Adams, whose header found young John Hobbs unguarded to the right of goal.

The full back, in only his third first team outing for the Rebels, drove the ball fiercely to punish Wanderers' momentary lack of cover and put an entirely false complexion on play, with Slough 1-0 up.

The resumption meant fresh Wycombe pressure. Wolstenholme again thwarting Delaney who saw his header

after Slough won their first corner of the match that Wycombe injected a fragment of justice into the scoreline with a 66th minute leveller.

Searle put the ball inside the visitors defence, and although Mead bodied down Pritchard's shot, before Slough could make a full clearance, Horseman nipped in to score from almost point blank range.

A momentary slip on Fuschillo's part left Hill clear with possession backed by Adams, and only Delaney between the Slough duo and another goal.

Searle moved onto Blunt's 72nd minute through ball but was well offside when shooting Wanderers second disallowed "goal" of the afternoon.

But Town's biggest let off came with just four minutes remaining when McPhee — one of two defenders covering Hutchinson's cross on an empty goal line — booted the ball out of immediate danger to force Wycombe to a replay.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS: J. Maskell; K. Blunt, P. Fuschillo, E. Powell, J. Delaney, L. Hartridge, L. Pritchard, A. Horseman, K. Searle, B. Bremer, J. Hutchinson. (Sub. B. Baker not used).

SLOUGH TOWN: I. Wolstenholme; J. Hobbs, M. Bell, K. Mead, I. McPhee, A. D'Arcy, M. O'Sullivan, S. Crosby, T. Reardon, J. Adams, R. Hill. (Sub. T. Turl not used).

Referee: A. L. Hart (Rotherhithe).

Official attendance: 7,450.

Half-time: 0-1. Goalscorers: Wycombe—Horseman (66). Slough—Hobbs (38).

MATCH DETAILS
(Wycombe figures first)
First half: Shots (and headers) on goal 9-1, off goal 3-0, fouls 11-13, offside 0-3, corners 3-0.
Second half: Shots (and headers) on goal 6-0, off goal 5-0, fouls 2-18, offside 3-1, corners 2-2.
Total: Shots (and headers) on goal 15-1, off goal 8-0, fouls 13-31, offside 3-4, corners 5-2.

But ironically it was only

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